

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 have been amended. New claims 8-16 have been added. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP55-80797 (Yazaki). Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yazaki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of JP-5-79434 (Nippon Seiki). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants hereby request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

Regarding the anticipation rejection of independent claim 1 based on Yazaki, this claim has been amended to recite that the second reflective surface reflects the light *directly* from the first reflective surface. This amendment is supported, for example, at Fig. 6 of the present application, wherein the first reflective surface is shown by reference number 73b, and the second reflective surface is shown by reference number 73c. Yazaki does not disclose or suggest this feature of amended claim 1. As shown in Fig. 2 of Yazaki, its reflective surface 10, analogized in the Office Action to the claimed second reflective surface, does not reflect light directly from its first reflective surface 4. Light from Yazaki's reflective surface 4 is first bounced off reflective surface 9, then reflective surface 10.

Thus, Yazaki does not anticipate amended claim 1, because it does not disclose each and every element of that claim. More particularly, Yazaki does not disclose the recited second reflective surface that reflects light directly from a first reflective surface in a direction along a

rotation axis. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to modify Yazaki to yield the invention of amended claim 1.

Consequently, amended independent claim 1 is patentable.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of dependent claims 5-7 based on Yazaki and Nippon Seiki, Nippon Seiki does not furnish the feature of amended claim 1, from which claims 5-7 depend, missing from Yazaki (i.e., the second reflective surface that reflects light directly from a first reflective surface in a direction along a rotation axis). Therefore, any combination of Yazaki and Nippon Seiki, however made, would still be missing this claimed feature, and it would not have been obvious to add this feature to any Yazaki/Nippon Seiki combination.

Consequently, claims 5-7 are patentable.

Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim 1. Claims 2-4 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of original claim 1, to place them in condition for allowance.

Consequently, amended claims 2-4 are patentable.

New dependent claims 8-16 have been added to more completely claim the invention. New claims 8-10 and 11-13, which depend from amended claims 2 and 3, respectively, are fully supported, for example, at Figs. 1 and 6 of the present application. New claims 14-16, which depend from amended claim 4, are fully supported, for example, at Fig. 8 and the corresponding description at pages 19-20 of the present application. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Application No.: 10/546,559

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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